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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**MARION AUTO DEALER SENTENCED TO 16 MONTHS FOR
LAUNDERING MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS' MONEY**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that EDWIN W. BLINN, JR., 40, a resident of Marion, Indiana, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge David F. Hamilton to 16 months' imprisonment and fined \$40,000. BLINN was further ordered to forfeit \$40,000, as substitute proceeds of the property used in the offense, Conspiracy to Conduct and Attempt to Conduct Financial Transactions Affecting Interstate Commerce. The indictment followed a joint investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the J.E.A.N. Team Drug Task Force, the Marion Police Department, and the Anderson Police Department.

The investigation revealed that in an effort to conceal the true nature of the marijuana trafficking proceeds, JOSHUAH KEMP, 31, and MASHAWN KEMP, 33, brothers and

Marion, Indiana residents, purchased vehicles from Blinn Enterprises located in Marion, Indiana. Working to assist in the concealment, BLINN titled the vehicles in nominee names and provided separate checks to JOSHUAH KEMP to further disguise the true ownership. In exchange for his assistance, BLINN was paid a premium of approximately \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per vehicle.

In pronouncing BLINN' s sentence, Judge Hamilton said “ The offense here is not drug trafficking itself, but is a crime essential to drug trafficking. If dealers cannot launder their money, they cannot enjoy their profits. You knew what you were doing, enabling drug traffickers in your community.”

On December 22, 2004, JOSHUAH KEMP was sentenced to 63 months' imprisonment and 5 years' supervised release to follow the term of incarceration. MASHAWN KEMP was sentenced to 84 months' imprisonment and 5 years' supervised release to follow the term of incarceration. JOSHUAH KEMP and MASHAWN KEMP each pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute and to Distribute 100 Kilograms or More of Marijuana, and Conspiracy to Conduct and Attempt to Conduct Financial Transactions Affecting Interstate Commerce.

On August 2, 2005, WALTER APPLEWHITE, a former Marion, Indiana resident, was sentenced to 37 months' imprisonment and 3 years' supervised release to follow the term of incarceration. APPLEWHITE pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute in Excess of 50 Kilograms of Marijuana.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Cynthia J. Ridgeway, who prosecuted the case for the government, BLINN will be placed on three years supervised release following completion of his prison sentence.

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